

# NOTES FROM THE:

## Financial Information Systems Program Office

by Mr Steve Rosengarten



The Financial Information Systems Program Office (FN SPO) encompasses central design activity efforts at both SSG and the Materiel Systems Group (MSG) located at Wright-Patterson AFB OH. This article includes information on efforts being worked at both locations that have Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS-DE), AFMC, and Air Force-wide applicability. This issue will mark the debut of the new Systems Program Director, Mr L. Steven Rosengarten, as the author of this column. In this issue, I am providing an update on Centralized Disbursing System, Integrated Accounts Payable System, Micro-based Budget Automated System, and Budget Enactment Management Information System.

Centralized Disbursing System (CDS). CDS is the new name for the Integrated Paying and Collecting System (IPC). In April 1999, CDS was rehoused to an open system environment (OSE) operating on a HP computer using Oracle and a Power Builder Graphical User Interface. The initial implementation was at the Ogden Defense Enterprise Computing Center (DECC) with the DFAS-DE Disbursing Office, DSSN 3801. On 1 May 2000, the remaining USAF DSSNs migrated to Ogden, thus totally implementing the centralized disbursing functionality. The new system allows for a quicker database update, automated file upload (vs diskette) and is a more portable operational environment (can operate on any UNIX box). The windows-based environment is user friendly. It also contains a large percentage of the required functionality required of a DoD disbursing system and is currently being evaluated to determine the feasibility of becoming a DoD migratory disbursing system.

Integrated Accounts Payable System (IAPS). The vendor payment processes for the Air Force, Army, Navy, and many other DoD agencies has undergone significant changes, with many more to come. Recent changes include a web-based inquiry system. This system allows for vendors, who register using Central Contract Registration (CCR), the ability to receive real-time information concerning the status of invoices and payments. Information is easily obtained for multiple bases across DoD services/agencies. Access to the system is available 24/7.

An IAPS release projected for release in late 2001 will include an enhancement allowing vendors to submit

invoices via the Web. The advantages of Web invoicing include (1) quicker submission (no time delay for mail delivery), thus quicker payment, (2) instantaneous return receipt, and (3) allowing the Air Force, Army, Navy, and other DOD agencies the opportunity to take full advantage of prompt payments discounts and avoid unnecessary interest penalties.

Micro-based Budget Automated System (MicroBAS). MicroBAS is an Air Force base-level budget system that provides budget analysts and resource advisors the capability for execution analysis and financial planning preparation. MicroBAS is currently used at all Air Force bases and Major Command (MAJCOM) budget offices as well as Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units, field operating agencies, and DFAS OPLOCs for producing timely financial data in flexible user defined formats.

The most recent modification of MicroBAS provides several new automatic updates for use in Financial Plan preparation. The Major Command Financial Plan module, which in the past was a part of the Command Budget Automated System (CBAS), is being transitioned into MicroBAS. Also, some validation features have been added to the maintenance tables. The size of the Financial Plan working files has been drastically reduced which will allow for the rolling-up of monetary amounts with the same data element values. Also added is a new optional capability to transfer narratives with the data into newly created working files. In addition, with the simple use of a radio button, users can select the LEVEL option, which will automatically key the calculation of either base-level amounts or MAJCOM-level amounts. Finally, an enhanced capability to create the Automated Budget Interactive Data Environment System (ABIDES) Output Files at either base level or MAJCOM level has been added. Release date was 31 January 2001.

Budget Enactment Management Information System (BEMIS). BEMIS is a client-server based system that manages the tracking and response of Congressional Budget Inquiries, Congressional Committee Hearing Transcript Inserts, and Congressional Reporting Requirements. BEMIS tracks these taskings to the specific directorates assigned to provide formal Congressional responses and coordination.

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Until June 2000, the Air Force was the only BEMIS customer. After system demonstrations by the Financial Information Systems Program Office BEMIS team, and subsequent finalization of a Service Level Agreement (SLA), the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller Plans and Systems Directorate (USD(C) Plans and Systems) implemented BEMIS in June 2000. This office serves as liaison to Congress and will initially use BEMIS as a tool to facilitate staffing and responding to Congressional Hearing Transcript Inserts, Questions For The Record, and Congressional Reporting Requirements. Action offices throughout the Pentagon will receive taskings from and respond to USD(C) using the BEMIS-template documents.

Work continues at HQ SSG on enhancements to the BEMIS system. The enhancement currently in the works will add processes to create and/or store Hearing Announcements, Witness Statements and Lists, and Hearing Resumes. The enhancement will also allow users to store documents (of any file type) related to an inquiry, hearing, insert or Congressional Reporting Requirement (CRR) record. This will allow all information related to a specific tasking to be stored with the primary tasking and will also make the information available for research. The scheduled release date for this enhancement is 28 September 2001.

